

Australian

U.F.O.

Bulletin

PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NEWS LETTER. FEBRUARY, 1975.

RESIGNATION OF MRS. JUDY MAGEE.

The Committee regrets to announce the resignation of Mrs. Judy Magee.

Mrs. Magee has been a member of the Society since its inception in 1957 and shortly thereafter she joined the Committee and occupied various offices conscientiously from that date. Most recently she served as Vice-President, having held the Society Secretaryship for some years previously.

During the years when the Society published a printed magazine, Mrs. Magee was active on the editorial board, and has also devoted much time and energy in lecturing on UFOs to various charitable and service organisations in Victoria.

She was a frequent contributor to overseas UFO publications, most notably the prestigious English "Flying Saucer Review", thus earning herself an enviable reputation as one of the world's foremost female UFO investigators.

Although pressure of business and personal commitments has obliged Judy to tender her resignation as a Committee member, she will remain a member of the Society, and it is hoped that, in the role of a special adviser to the Committee, the advantages of her talent and experience will not be lost to the Society.

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SOCIETY NIGHT

An evening for Society members will be held on Saturday night, March 22, commencing 7.30 pm. The Venue is Guy's Coffee Lounge (Tel. 932408), Shop 7, Balcombe Walk, Mentone (Rear of 95 Balcombe Rd, near Mentone station). A light three course meal will be served and a slide-illustrated talk and discussion will be given by Society lecturers Paul Norman and Judy Magee. The charge per person is \$1.25. Members wishing to attend are requested to apply to the secretary by letter, enclosing payment. Prompt applications would be appreciated, as catering must be arranged, and tickets sent to applicants by return mail. Members may bring friends.

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MEMBERS' NIGHTS

The Society rooms at 12th floor, 100 Collins St., are open for members on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month, from 7.30 pm. The library and the latest overseas publications are available.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT
~~EXPIRES THIS ISSUE.~~

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Australian members\$4.20
(Juniors...\$2.10)
Overseas members ...US\$2.50

(From "Flying Saucer Review", Vol. 20, No. 2, Oct., 1974.
FSR Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 25, Barnet, Herts. EN5 2NR, England)

Text of a radio interview given on February 21, 1974, translated by Gordon Creighton.

This is a translation of a taped recording of an exclusive interview given by Monsieur Robert Galley, Ministre des Armées, to Jean-Claude Bourret, reporter of France-Inter, and broadcast on February 21, 1974, at 8.30 pm, in one of the series of 39 programmes devoted to UFO research by France-Inter between Monday, January 28, 1974, and Friday, March 22, 1974. Widely reported next day, with big headlines, in such newspapers as France-Soir, Le Parisien Libere, L'Aurore, and Le Figaro, this important news item was apparently totally ignored by all the British media. (and, of course, by all the Australian media - Ed.)

Excerpts From the Minister's Statements

"...My own profound belief is that it is necessary to adopt an extremely open-minded attitude towards these phenomena. Man has made a certain amount of progress by the fact that he has sought to explain the inexplicable. Now, as regards these aerial phenomena, these visual phenomena (I won't say more than that) which we have gathered together under the term of "UFO", it is certain that there are things that we don't understand and that are at present pretty well unexplained; I will indeed go so far as to say that it is an irrefutable fact that there are today things that are inexplicable, or poorly explained..."

"...Since 1970 we have sent on the whole of our collection of reports to the Group for the Study of Aerial Phenomena, and every time something extraordinary occurs this is what we continue to do. These are sightings by pilots, or investigations by the gendarmerie. Since 1970, in fact, the Air Force has taken the view that the UFOs represent no sort of danger - and so the job of studying these phenomena at the scientific level does not fall within their sphere. We consider that this is a job for the National Centre for Space Studies, where people like Monsieur Poher are doing what seems to us to be extremely interesting work. So we have no direct contact now in these matters..."

"...Personally, I am for example very interested in this phenomenon, which Monsieur Poher has been describing, of the relationship between the variations in magnetic fields and the passage of unidentified flying objects. All this business presents a whole lot of quite disturbing phenomena which may of course one of these days be explained satisfactorily as not being due to the passage of some specific object or other, but simply as magnetic phenomena. But, so far as the present moment is concerned, we are forced to admit that here is something that escapes our comprehension.

"There has also been the extremely impressive increase in the number of visual sightings of luminous phenomena, sometimes spherical, sometimes ovoid, travelling at extraordinarily high speeds. All these are phenomena that call for a certain degree of attention. But, and I must repeat this, in the Air Force we don't take the view that these matters appear to involve our national air defence..."

Jean-Claude Bourret (the interviewer): "Mr. Minister, you have mentioned the gendarmerie. Now, our listeners on France-Inter have heard, several times in this series, the conclusions reached in the investigations conducted by your gendarmes - spectacular conclusions: when a witness declares that he has seen a saucer land and that he has seen small humanoids near the saucer, very frequently the gendarmes reach the conclusion that the witness is speaking the truth. What do you yourself think about this?"

"Well, of course I should no doubt be a great deal more cautious. But all the same I must say that if your listeners could see for themselves the mass of reports coming in from the airborne gendarmerie, from the mobile gendarmerie, and from the gendarmerie charged with the job of conducting investigations, all of which reports are being forwarded by us to the C.N.E.S. (National Centre For Space Studies), then they would see that it is all pretty disturbing.

My view about the gendarmerie is that they are serious people. When they draw up a report, they don't do it haphazardly. If there were only one or two such reports, one might indeed think that perhaps the gendarmerie's good faith had been deceived. But I must tell you that in fact the number of these gendarmerie reports is very great, and they are very varied. The whole thing is of course still very fragmentary but I must emphasise that, in this UFO business, it is essential to preserve an extremely open mind. On the one hand one cannot doubt the good faith of eyewitnesses who are clearly entirely sincere. And, at the same time, it is at present still far too early to draw the least conclusion from it all".

"FLYING SAUCER NEST" IN THE THISTLES (from the Sydney Sun-Herald, 15/12/1974)

A "flying saucer nest" carved out of a patch of saffron thistles has been discovered near Forbes in the central west of New South Wales. Brothers Viv and George Huckle made the find while ploughing down thistles on Oakley property, in the Pullabooka area, 36 miles south of Forbes.

The "nest" is near the edge of a water hole 50 yards from a lone tree and half a mile from the homestead. The manner in which the 20 ft. diameter patch of thistles had been destroyed has intrigued the brothers. At the centre the earth has been bared. Towards the perimeter, thistles have been swept down in an anticlockwise direction. Some of the stems had three or four beaks; others were pulped. The demarcation line between the "nest" and the surrounding thistles is clearly defined by untouched plants.

A cattle camp, a sheep camp, a whirlwind, an emu's nest and a flock of birds have all been suggested as the cause. The Huckle brothers rule these theories out. They are awaiting the arrival of unidentified flying object researchers. They will determine how precisely the thistle "nest" matches up with the reed bed "nests" reported from Queensland.

ANY UFO ACTIVITY IN YOUR AREA?

Members! Have you heard of a sighting in your area? If so, don't hesitate to drop us a line and tell us all about it.

Did you read an article about UFOs in a newspaper or magazine recently? If so, have it photocopied or clip it out and send it to us.

We want to be informed of all UFO news. If you don't tell us, maybe we'll never know about it.

The Society's hundreds of members are a potential source of information we want. So don't assume we already know about it. Let us know!

CLOSE SIGHTING AT ST. KILDA

Late in November we received a sighting report form giving very brief information on a sighting which occurred early this year. On the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 21, I called without any notice on the witness, Mrs. X, at her home, where she described the details of two unusual sightings. Both incidents occurred at about the same time - approximately 11.15 pm - on successive nights. She cannot remember the dates, but said that the second night was the eve of a public holiday, and was probably during Easter.

Mrs. X lives alone in a flat on the third floor of a 12-storey Housing Commission block. In plan, the building consists of two rectangular wings at right angles, forming a T shape. The flats on each floor level are connected by a cat-walk running the length of both wings on the northern side. (See diagram)

First Sighting

Mrs. X. was at position A on the cat-walk, in the process of depositing some rubbish in a disposal chute, when she was startled by a bright yellow-white light shining directly at her. The light was coming from an aerial object with a circular "headlight", which was moving straight towards her from the north west, and level with her position on the third floor. The object came to a stop and hovered motionless, with the beam shining straight at her. The object remained thus for a time she could not estimate, but thought it was "a few minutes". During this time, Mrs. X said that she seemed to be "stuck on the spot", somehow paralysed with shock and fear. Suddenly the object swiftly rose vertically and disappeared over the roof of the building. Mrs. X., very frightened, ran back to her flat, and, from the door, saw the object rapidly ascending vertically into the sky. The whole incident took place in complete silence.

Mrs. X. stressed that the object was very close, and she pointed out the approximate distance on the floor - 20 to 30 feet. She believed that had she seen it from the door of her flat, she would have been looking at it directly side-on. As the object rose she got a brief glimpse of a dark shape behind the light. Her impression was of a somewhat "dun-shaped" object, with a projecting headlight at the front. She demonstrated the size of the "headlight" with her arms - about 2 feet diameter; and marked out on the floor of her room her estimate of the object's dimensions - roughly 7 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet.

Second Sighting

The next night, at about the same time, Mrs. X. was seated at B, looking out the open window of her flat. The light in her room was on. It was a fine, warm, and moonlit night. She said that her room often became very stuffy and at times she sat at the window to catch a cooling breeze. For the second time she saw the bright yellow-white "headlight" approaching from the north west, although this time its direction was slightly more west. As it approached, the beam from the light passed along the outside wall, passed her position, and the object came to a stop directly opposite her window. This time the object was higher than her position, and she demonstrated the angle of viewing by holding her arm out the window at about 30 degrees to the horizontal. Again, she stressed that the object was very close, and, pointing to a small tree about 40 feet from the foot of the building, said that the object would have been directly over it.

The diagram is my own sketch, compiled from her description and rough sketches, and approved by her as a good representation of what she saw. She believed it was very similar in size and shape to the object of the previous night. All she could see at first was a dark outline against the sky, with the "headlight" shining forward. Shortly after it came to a stop, she was astonished to see a "sliding door" open! This happened very quickly, she said, taking one or two seconds, "exactly as you'd open the sliding door in a house". From inside emanated an intense white light, brighter and somewhat whiter than the light from the "headlight". From the view she had through the "door", she observed that the interior light seemed to be glittering; she described it as "sparkling and crackling like decoration lights". The only other detail she noticed was what she described as "a mass of pipes, about the thickness of your finger, some stretching along the back wall, others coiled up, giving the impression of complicated machinery". All the time the object was dead still and completely silent, with the "headlight" shining ahead without variation in intensity. Pressed for more details, she was unable to describe the object any further. She could not distinguish anything below the level of the "door", but felt that what she could see was the complete object.

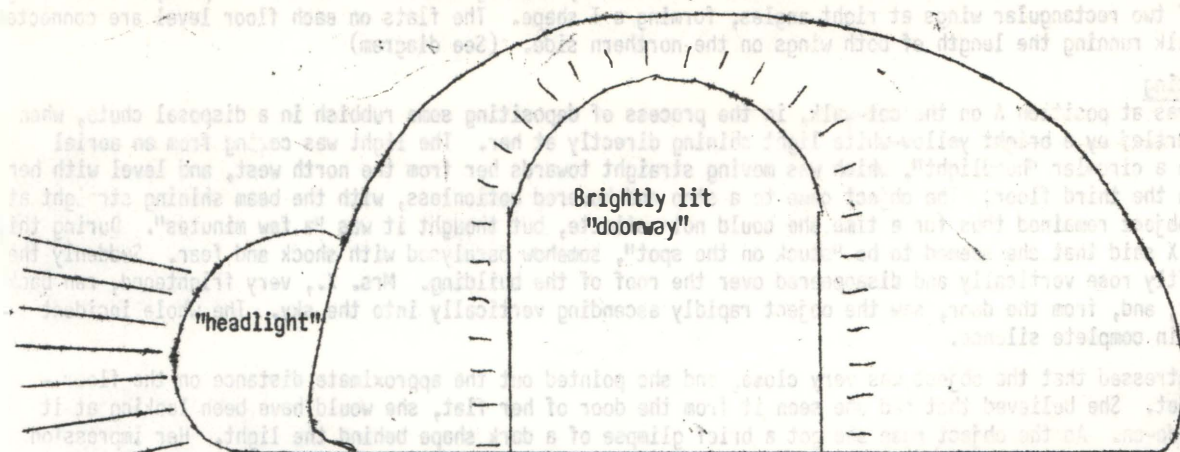
Once again, she could only estimate the time she sat there watching as "a few minutes", all the time in a state of shocked fascination. Eventually she was able to tear herself away to go and find another witness. She ran out to a neighbouring flat to arouse Mrs. Y., who was in bed asleep. Mrs. Y. was not fast enough in coming, so Mrs. X. hurried back for another look. She arrived back at her window to see the object disappearing into the distance on a rising path towards the south east.

Mrs. X. stated that during the time she watched the hovering object, she experienced the same sensation of being paralysed on the spot. As on the previous night, she seemed unable to move her limbs; this effect she attributed to her state of shock. After the incident she found herself in a rather distressed condition, with profuse perspiration, sickness in the stomach, and an ache behind the eyes. She thought that the headache resulted from the prolonged staring at the brightly lit "doorway". These symptoms lingered for a couple of days afterwards, with difficulty in sleeping for about two weeks. At about this time she visited her doctor, to whom she told her story, and who prescribed a tonic and tranquilisers after finding nothing serious in her condition. She said that the doctor did not seem very impressed with her story, nor did he question her for details.

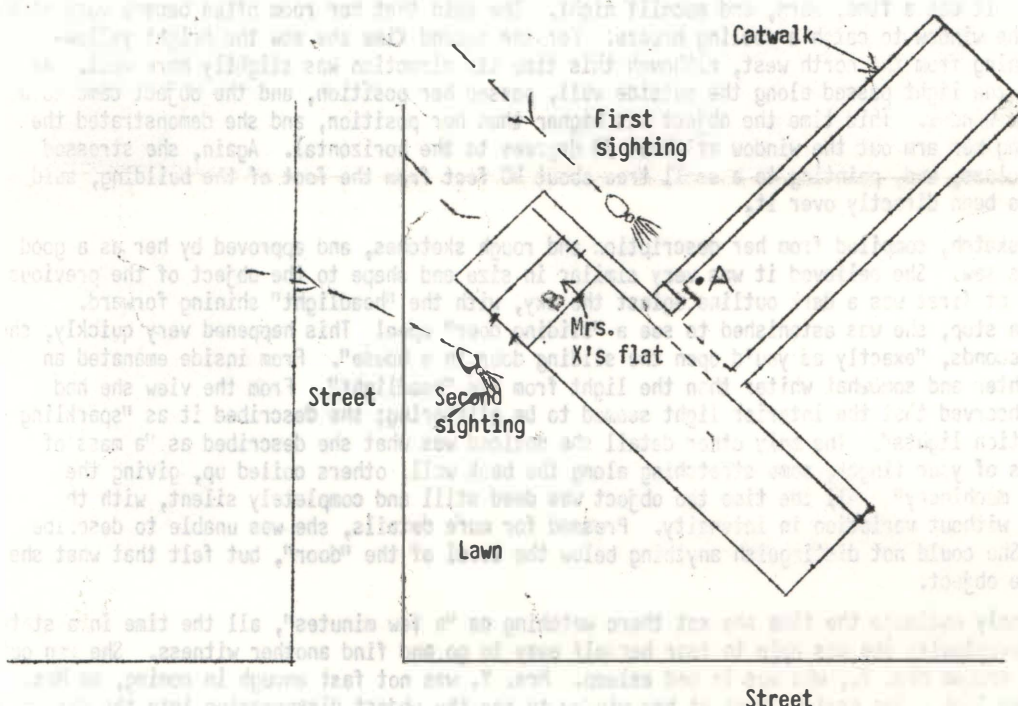
Mrs. X. is 79. She states that her prior health had been good, and that she had never before suffered from similar symptoms. In my opinion she is a woman in good health, physically and mentally. She described the incidents perfectly coherently and objectively, and without hesitation or contradiction. She called the object a "flying saucer", but volunteered no speculation about it, apart from saying that she now knew quite definitely that they did exist. She claimed no prior interest in the subject of UFOs, saying that she had read some newspaper articles on sightings in the past, but had always dismissed them as "products of imagination". She observed only what is described above, but is adamant that what she did see cannot be explained by any conventional object. When aircraft, helicopter and balloon were suggested as possible explanations, they were vigorously rejected. She said that she often saw and heard aeroplanes pass over the area. "I'll remember it till the day I die", she commented.

Mrs. X. stressed several times the severe shock she received, and it was obvious that the experience was vividly etched in her memory. I am sure she was describing what she sincerely believes to be a real experience. She made it plain that she does not want to see any more such objects, nor does she discuss the sighting anymore with anyone, having endured a certain amount of ribbing and ridicule from her neighbours.

The first thought that entered my head when I saw where Mrs. X. lives was: "Where are all the other witnesses?" When I suggested to her that hundreds must have seen the object at such a low altitude over such a densely populated suburban area, she did not agree. She said that all the other tenants would have been sleeping at the time, and that she could see no lighted windows anywhere in the building. She also commented that there was very little traffic in the surrounding streets at the time, and that the object may not have been obvious from the ground, anyway. However, she does claim to have a corroborating witness of sorts. She said that she had mentioned her sighting to a man she knew only slightly, and who, after hearing her story, had told her that he had seen a similar object early in the morning following the night of Mrs. X.'s second sighting. Unfortunately, she knows neither the name nor address of this man.



The object seen by Mrs. X. She emphasised that the "doorway" was definitely semicircular at the top.



Rough plan of the block of flats. Broken lines show the directions of approach of the object.
(Investigation by Ray Fischer)

UFO OVER THE GRAMPIANS

A Noble Park man reports that he and three other witnesses observed a glowing, soundless cigar-shaped object from Hall's Gap during Easter, 1974. The object, about one quarter moon size, hovered for about 90 minutes at an elevation of 30 degrees to the north of their position, changing colour from blue to gold. The time of the sighting was roughly between one and two A.M. and it was a starry night with no cloud. The witness commented: "We were all filled with a very warm feeling and realised that whatever they were doing it would most likely be with good intentions... It seemed to draw attention to itself through some mental thought".

INCREASED SIGHTINGS IN N.S.W.

In a letter to the Editor of the Lithgow Mercury (9/8/1974), Rex Gilroy, director of the Mount York Natural History Museum, writes: "As a research officer for several UFO investigation organisations, I have made an extensive in-depth study of the phenomena for the past 10 years with special emphasis upon the area covering Bathurst, Wallerawang, Lithgow, Blue Mountains to Penrith. Sightings of UFOs throughout this wide area have shown a decided increase over the past 5 years with over 300 sightings in that period, 82 of which occurred throughout the 12 months of 1973. At least a further 20 sightings have been made throughout the Lithgow district over the past 12 months...."

UFO OVER WALKERSTON

Mackay - Two women and five children in a car were alarmed by an unidentified object over Walkerston late on Saturday night. Mrs. Norma Robinson, of Kelly's Rd., near Walkerston, said they were attracted by a set of bright lights moving overhead about 9.30 pm. The lights were in the shape of a cross and had in the centre a bright red revolving light. DCA and airline officials said later the lights were probably those of an aircraft in the area, but the people insisted they were too low and were entirely soundless. - Rockhampton Bulletin, 19/8/1974.

SCAMANDER SIGHTING IS TASMANIA'S BEST

A report of a sighting of an unidentified flying object which made headlines in SEM three weeks ago, is now regarded as one of the best sightings made in Tasmania. The UFO, which was watched for 1 hr. 43 minutes by Roger Brooks, a senior English master at St. Mary's District School, and Gary Bensemann, a student at the Northern division of the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education, "darted about the night sky, hovered like a helicopter, and flashed coloured lights".

"This is a classic sighting," said Mr. Ken Bennetto, sighting officer of Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre, and who has been checking out the report. The possibilities of the UFO being an aircraft, planet, or even a temperature inversion, have been ruled out. "This is a genuine sighting of a UFO - something I'd give my back teeth to have seen myself," Mr. Bennetto said.

Brooks and Bensemann were walking a dog on Scamander beach when they saw an unusual pale yellow light with green and pink lights below it. The UFO was at about 1600 feet (viewed against St. Patrick's Head, which is 1600 feet high and half a mile from the coast). The two observers telephoned Hobart Airport but learned nothing. Then they contacted Mr. Bennetto who gave instructions how to take sightings, and plot its course.

On the beach they formed a simple rectangle with two sticks driven into the sand, and another stick resting securely across the top. Sighting through this they watched the UFO hover, move at slow and medium speeds, and at times move very rapidly like an aircraft does on take-off. At times it moved out of the "frame". The planet Jupiter was clearly visible at the time, and aided the two men in making their calculations.

They described the UFO as being four to five times brighter than Jupiter. It was "an object mainly composed of lights: the brightest one, pale yellow, was shaped like a dome; beneath that green, pink, and occasional white and pale blue lights moved from left to right around what appeared to be a disc like an upturned plate. This lower part did not appear solid but rather was an area of light," was how they described the UFO.

It was 10.20 pm when they made their first sighting, and the UFO had been following a diverse path in a northerly direction, but 15 minutes later it started to move south. The two men followed it by car for 8 or 9 miles to Four Mile Creek. The night was quite bright when they first saw the UFO, but half an hour later some cloud showed up. Stars tended to become dimmed, but the UFO maintained its brightness. About 10.50 pm the UFO picked up speed along its southerly course, and an hour later was so far away, it "looked like a star".

Fascinated by what they had seen the two men still watched until the UFO was lost to sight through cloud at 11.50 pm. The UFO reappeared briefly again at 12.02 am - it was quite distant by then - and eventually disappeared. At 12.15 am the two men called it a night: "We were disappointed," they said, "we could have kept on watching".

What the UFO was, where it came from, and where it went to, are of course mysteries. Mysteries as great as the reports of UFOs which can be found all through the world's least read best-seller - the Bible. All kinds of theories have been put forward as to where UFOs originate from. Some appear sound. Some appear quite unsound.

One of the world's foremost authorities, Prof. J. Allen Hynek, of Northwestern University, Illinois, told me it is his private belief that UFOs are from another dimension.....

-from an article by Mac Moulton in the Saturday Evening Mercury, Hobart, 21/9/1974.

A SECOND SIGHTING OF LIGHT

Another kempsey resident has reported sighting a strange light in the sky. After reading an article published in last Thursday's "Argus" entitled "Things That Go Clunk", Mr. Patrick Mowle, of Elrington Ave., Kempsey, reported that he had sighted a UFO in the sky a week before the sighting on Sep. 8.

Mr. Mowle said that at about 6 pm on Sep. 1 he and three other members of the Kempsey Flying Club had seen "a small white light rapidly flashing on and off in the sky halfway between Crescent Head and Port Macquarie". The flashing light, which appeared to be about the size of a half moon, has flashed on and off for about 10 seconds and disappeared on three separate occasions. The first time it had been situated at about the altitude of a normal aircraft, halfway between Crescent Head and Port Macquarie. Mr. Mowle said: "It did not move; but just flashed on and off for a few seconds, then disappeared".

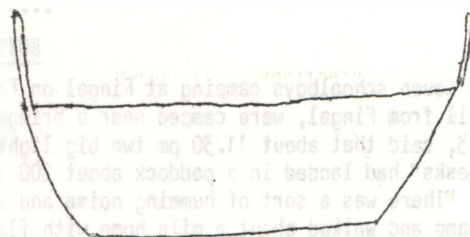
It had appeared again about one minute later in the same place and then, after disappearing for about 5 minutes, reappeared in the sky about 8 kilometres south of Crescent Head. Mr. Mowle said the light had finally disappeared at about 6.10 pm. He said all the men who had seen the light were experienced pilots, but they had all agreed the light could not have been a normal aircraft.

- Kempsey Argus (NSW), 1/10/1974.

KALLISTA UFO

A Kallista woman has reported a sighting at about 10.30 pm on Oct. 30. The object, first seen in the southeast, and last seen in the northwest, was soundless, pure gold in colour, and "boat-shaped with a mast at each end". She was unsure of the apparent size, but guessed about that of a one cent piece at arm's length. The object travelled steadily straight forward at a speed she could not estimate. The duration of the sighting was thought to be in minutes. There were no other witnesses. The witness said:

"The night I saw this object I was just lying in bed watching the sky... This lovely thing showed up, and I thought: 'that cannot be a plane, as planes only show riding lights' - but I got out of bed and went to the open window (fly wire screen) to listen for any sounds - no sound at all - so after some seconds there I went into the sitting room and watched it through my large window. I felt it was not very far distant, nor very high, because it passed behind the trees a little lower down the hill and appeared again".



The Kallista UFO
(from witness's sketch)

UFO'S OF THE WORLD UNITE

Australia recently joined a growing world body which is studying the UFO phenomenon on a global basis. The nerve centre of the international body is "Centre For UFO Studies" - an organisation set up by Prof. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Department of Astronomy of North-Western University, USA. Dr. Hynek visited Australia a year ago and personally investigated sightings made in Tasmania and other states. On his return home he set up Centre For UFO Studies, an organisation which now has hundreds of investigators across the United States.

Membership of the centre is made up largely of professional scientists and engineers and faculty members from various universities. The centre is entirely supported by private funds. The centre also operates a toll-free telephone line 24 hours a day for the use of official agencies in transmitting UFO sightings. All police departments and sheriffs' offices are cooperating.

Computers are used for comparison of UFO sightings. Laboratories test anything affected by UFOs, such as trees, soil, plants, cars, radios, television sets. Medical studies are made of witnesses who report being temporarily blinded, paralyzed, and subject to nausea, headaches, and other complaints after sightings.

In Australia all UFO groups are being urged to use a standard report form which has earned praise from the RAAF. Another move is to introduce the international "Pantone" colour system. Instead of a witness describing a UFO's colour as "yellow-goldy" one of the 150 colours in the "Pantone" system can be picked and logged as Pantone 120 (or whatever the number is). The Australian Section of the Centre For UFO Studies will coordinate reports from all UFO groups across Australia, and pass them on to the American centre. Similar work is being done in France, England, South America, and Japan. A complete global network is the aim of Dr. Hynek. The Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre will be filing information with the Australian section, which is based in Gosford.

There have been many sightings in NE and NW Tasmania this year. One of the most recent was near St. Helens (a number have been reported in SEM) and recently the RAAF said it could not logically account for what was seen. The sighting was made by a woman who wished to remain unnamed. She was sitting in her car waiting for a relative when the car's radio began "playing up" - crackling and making piercing noises. Formerly in good condition, it is now still faulty.

She then noticed the UFO. It was about 30 metres off the ground, and it flew in low towards the car. The woman said it hovered at "fence top height". She was alarmed, and reversed her car with the intention of turning round and going home. In her panic she bogged the car. While she was reversing her car the UFO followed slowly, and the car radio gave out a "piercing noise". The woman got out of her car and ran the one mile home. She picked up her car the next day.

What investigators cannot understand is that the front of the car which had been facing the UFO was absolutely clean when the woman picked the car up the next day. The rest of the car was "filthy".

The woman drew the UFO for the RAAF. She said she had it in view for about four minutes before it flew off....

- Saturday Evening Mercury, Hobart, 19/10/1974.

(The coordinators of CUFOS-ACOS are Mr. Harry Griesburg and Mr. David Seargent, and the address is: Centre For UFO Studies - Australian Coordination Section, P.O. Box 546, Gosford, N.S.W., 2250)

UFO SIGHTING

Eighteen year old Harry Pinhorn of Wyoming (NSW) used to laugh at stories about flying saucers and strangers from outer space - But not any more. Not since a large grey object hovered over the factory where he works at Lisarow and then disappeared upwards "as if there was a hole in the sky".

Harry kept his secret from just after 12 noon on Tuesday last week until a staff reporter (who heard a whisper a flying saucer had been sighted) phoned him yesterday. "It flew across from the north west, from the Mangrove Mountain area I think, hovered over the factory and then went straight up out of sight. I looked up at the trees because the birds had all suddenly gone quiet and there it was, flying towards me. It was a clear blue sky - there was no mistaking what I saw. I have never seen anything like it before - it sort of gives you a funny feeling to think there really are things from outer space flying around". Harry said the "thing" was completely silent, no engine noise, no exhaust fumes.

Report is "Authentic"

The secretary of the Central Coast UFO Research Bureau, Mr. Harry Griesberg, said Harry Pinhorn's report appeared to be quite genuine. "I spent almost two hours interviewing him and he seemed quite a level-headed young fellow", Mr. Griesberg added. He said the Central Coast Bureau was investigating the sighting and would contact the RAAF in case they could come up with an explanation. He added that the course reported for the object would rule out any possibility of it being a plane or weather balloon. It was the first UFO report received by the Central Coast Bureau since April. Mr. Griesberg said the lull in activity between April and October had been general all over Australia.

- Central Coast Express, Gosford, 14/11/1974.

WHAT WAS IT?

A UFO made a brief but observed appearance above Sunraysia yesterday. The sighting was reported to Mildura police by Irymple resident, Mr. Thomas D. Watkins. Mr. Watkins said he was working in his garden about 11 am when he heard "a sharp buzzing noise in the sky". "I looked up and saw a very bright round object moving extremely rapidly across the sky from north to south. It was moving away from the earth and rapidly disappeared".

Mr. Watkins is a professor at a college in California, working with the CSIRO while on sabbatical leave in Australia. He took his experience calmly, without producing any theories.

"I'm a scientist, so I'm not easily fooled. I've always been pessimistic about seeing anything like this, but it was very real. I believe that when anything like this occurs it's the duty of the person concerned to report it so someone, someday, may find out what it's all about".

- Sunraysia Daily, 2/12/1974.

BOYS SAY UFOS IN FIELD

Seven schoolboys camping at Fingal on Friday night were terrified by what they described as two UFOs. The boys, all from Fingal, were camped near a bridge over the South Esk River about a mile from the township. Mark Donnellan, 13, said that about 11.30 pm two big lights had come from the sky and two disc-like objects "a bit bigger than desks" had landed in a paddock about 200 yards from their camp.

"There was a sort of humming noise and the lights kept shining, all green and orange", he said. "We left the camp and walked about a mile home with flashes of light following us. We were all pretty scared and didn't know what the things were".

The other members of the party were Barry Gibbons, John Stingle, Ricky Hall, Scott Donnellan, Nigel Vincent, and Peter McGill.

Mark said the party went back after about two hours to collect a puppy they had left at the camp and the lights were still flashing.

- Hobart Mercury, 7/12/1974.